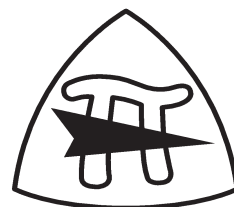


The Guardian



Hamilton Township Education Association

Vol. 22 No. 2 February 2012

7 Period Day Grievance

The new schedule at the secondary level this year led the HTEA to file a grievance for not paying staff for the increased instructional time as per the HTEA contract. That grievance which was denied at all levels at Park Ave. has now moved to the arbitrator level.

Due to the fact that the new schedule was put into place without any HTEA involvement, the HTEA filed an unfair labor practice as well. The ULP was heard by a judge at PERC on January 25th and it was determined that our position had merit. The judge made the decision to send the case to an arbitrator. As of this time, no dates have been set for any arbitration meetings.

Help Us Make A Difference

The HTEA has joined with the MCEA in sponsoring a Pajama Drive to benefit needy children in Mercer county. This drive will be from January 3 - February 21.

Drop off new pajamas at the HTEA office or the MCEA office. Visit MCEA website for more info. www.mercercountyyea.org

Hamilton Educational Foundation Wine Festival
February 16, 6-8:30 PM
Hamilton Area YMCA
Sawmill Branch
\$25/school staff(\$30 at the door)
Call Barbara Hoglen at
609-581-9622 ext.107

2011 NEA/NJEA/MCEA/HTEA Dues For Tax Purposes

Certified Staff		10 month Support Staff	
Members	\$1078.80	Members	\$568.70
Non-Members	\$863.04	Non-Members	\$454.96
12 month Support Staff		19.5 hour Custodian	
Members	\$571.00	12 month	\$298.35
Non-Members	\$456.80	Non-Member	\$238.68

These are estimated figures based on 60% at last year's dues rate (Jan-June) plus 40% at this year's dues rate(July-Dec.)

New Superintendent Announced by School Board

HTEA looks forward to welcoming Dr. James Parla

The Hamilton Township school board has appointed Dr. James Parla as the next school superintendent of Hamilton. Dr. Parla, 60, currently serves as superintendent of the 12,400-student Wappingers Central School District in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. Six of the nine members of the Hamilton school board voted "yes" on Dr. Parla's appointment. Three members — Eric Hamilton, Ronald Tola and Jeff Hewitson — abstained from voting because they have family members who work in the district.

Dr. Parla will begin a four-year contract on April 1, 2012, and end June 30, 2016. He will be paid \$177,500 a year, the maximum under a state-mandated salary cap. Dr. Parla, who currently earns over \$200,000, will receive a New York pension when he comes to Hamilton. He said that he looks forward to coming here. Dr. Parla stated "My style is to be visible, someone who is approachable, someone who is accessible. You'll see a lot of me all over town." Dr. Parla currently lives in Dutchess County, N.Y. but plans to move to Hamilton.

The school board has voted to extend the contract of the current interim superintendent, Dr. James Sheerin, until the end of February. It is expected that Mr. Sheerin will continue as interim superintendent

until Dr. Parla takes over the position.

Dr. Parla started his educational career as a 5th and 6th grade teacher in New Hyde Park from 1974 till 1982. Since 1992 he was a superintendent in three different New York school districts. He served as a director of operations at NYNEX from 1984 to 1992.

In addition to his experience as a teacher and administrator, Dr. Parla also served as coordinator of evening services at Nassau Community College, assistant dean of the Hagan School of Business at Iona College, and a telecommunications consultant for New T&T Hong Kong Ltd.

He earned a bachelor's degree from State University of New York at Oneonta, a master's degree from Adelphi University, a Master of Business Administration degree from Iona College and a doctorate of education from Columbia University Teachers College.

The HTEA looks forward to working with Dr. Parla as we begin a new chapter for Hamilton schools.

NEA Convention Washington D.C.

June 30-July 5, 2012

Election for representatives for the NEA convention will be held in March. Hamilton needs nine members who would be willing to represent the 1,300 members of the HTEA in Washington. Most of the expenses are covered by the NJEA.

Nomination forms are available from your building AR or by calling the HTEA office. They are due by the AR meeting on March 13, 2012, at Grice.

From The Desk Of The President

Our school board has decided to accept the terms and conditions of Governor Christie's newest bill. We will move our school board elections to November for the next four years. This should triple the number of citizens who vote for school board members and possible budget questions. This decision also will extend the term of office for all school board members by nine months. The most important feature is that the bill will also allow us to increase the school budget by 2% (up to the cap) without requiring a school budget election. The board is currently developing an interim budget that will cover our district from July to November. Then there will be another budget, also under 2%, that will finish the school year. Increasing our Hamilton budget by 2% will seem like receiving a windfall after over a decade of flat budgets.

The board held a budget workshop on Saturday January 28th. There were some staff increases in the budget: 8 middle school math teachers, 2 elementary teachers and 4 educational assistants for students in need at Wilson and Kuser, 2 data coaches, a nurse, 4 elementary guidance counselors and a curriculum supervisor. HTEA is pleased with most of these positions because they have a direct impact on students in the classroom, but we feel the money spent on a Park Ave. curriculum supervisor would be better spent in the classroom.

The district is moving ahead with Data Driven Instruction, LinkIt!, and the computerized roll book. HTEA recognizes the value of the Data Driven Instruction for improving student learning, but is concerned about the increased

workload for teachers caused by this program. We are also concerned about the ability of our district's computers to run these programs in an efficient manner. Not all of our district's computers are as updated as they should be. Although the existing computers can run these programs, the older computers will take much longer to run the program. This will only increase the amount of time it will take to use these programs.

HTEA is also concerned that the LinkIt! program and the computerized roll book will be used for teacher evaluation. We are concerned about the pending legislation to reduce the strength of tenure and the possibility of the adoption of merit pay. These programs will give our district the instant ability to implement the Governor's proposed programs that are not teacher friendly. The district has repeatedly stated that it is not their intention to use these new programs for teacher evaluation. However, it was brought up by a school board member on Jan. 25th that these programs have that ability.

NJEA is moving forward with their proposal for education reform. After the results of the Pensions and Benefits Bill last June, they feel it is better to make a counter proposal to negative bills than to just say no as they did last June. The NJEA's counterproposal deals with the state's proposed bills regarding tenure and teacher evaluation. I have sent copies of NJEA's presentation to each worksite. You can also view their proposal on the HTEA website "HTEA.org" and the NJEA website "NJEA.org". They may be asking for our assistance in the near future. The information on this website will make you aware of the issues surrounding the NJEA proposal. Take the time to view this 10 minute presentation.

HTEA is also currently soliciting nominations for ESP of the Year from each worksite. You should have received a nomination form in your mailbox. Please take the time to nominate a worthy HTEA support staff candidate from your building. More than one nomination from each building is welcome, but the nomination of at least one person from each site is essential. Winners will be honored at a special dinner in

the spring for Teachers and ESPs of the Year.

We are also circulating nomination forms for NEA/RA delegates for the NEA annual convention in Washington D.C. from June 30th until July 5th. HTEA needs to elect 9 delegates to join me at the convention to set the NEA policies and budget for 2012-2013. NEA's new teacher evaluation proposal will be discussed and voted upon at this meeting. You can nominate yourself for this position. There will be an election in March for the 9 positions. Staff members who usually attend this conference for HTEA have retired and/or have family commitments that prevent them from attending this year. We need 2 or 3 new delegates to volunteer. All members should experience this activity at least once in their career. NJEA, MCEA, and HTEA will fund your participation in this event.

Fred

Member Services

Cell Phone Rate Discounts

Teachers who have their wireless accounts with Verizon, AT&T and Sprint qualify for a discount on their monthly bills. These discounts are often not advertised. Ask your carrier if you qualify. Many of our members are already getting 15% discounts on their wireless bills.

Linda's Pet Sitting Service
856-727-1707

The Learning Center
Linda Golden, Educational Director
Hamilton, 609-410-1371

Calendar

February

- 14 HTEA Ex Bd Mtg
4:00 HTEA Office
- 20 President's Day
No School
- 22 BOE Agenda Session
7:00 Park Ave
- 28 BOE Regular Session
6:00 Park Ave
7:00 Meet & Greet new superintendent

The Guardian



The newsletter of the Hamilton Township Education Association, an affiliate of the New Jersey Education Association.

President Fred Schwartz
Vice President: Pat Apoldite
Vice President: Eileen Porada
Timothy Connery, Editor
The Guardian is published by the HTEA,
Mercerville Professional Park
2333 Whitehorse-Mercerville Rd.
Mercerville, NJ 08690
Phone 586-9335 Fax 890-6350
We welcome your comments, ideas, and articles.
contact editor Tim Connery at Crockett M.S.
631-4149 or tcnj@mac.com